

Appl. No.: 10/772,196  
Amdt. dated 07/27/2010  
Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2010

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of discriminating between orders, comprising:  
evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether ~~one or more~~ a plurality of prescriptions  
within each order ~~is~~ are fillable in ~~an~~ a fully automated manner or ~~a non-automated manner~~ not;  
and

determining, via a control computer, a set of workstations for each prescription based on  
said evaluating,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the plurality of  
prescriptions is fillable in ~~an~~ the fully automated manner, the method further comprises selecting  
a first subset of said workstations to fill the at least one prescription entirely automatically,  
~~wherein selecting~~ said first subset of said workstations ~~comprises excludes~~ excluding a  
pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order by a pharmacist and,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that the at least one prescription is not  
fillable in ~~at~~ the fully ~~non-~~automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second  
subset of said workstations to semi-automatically or manually fill the at least one prescription,  
said second subset of said workstations includes the pharmacist review workstation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising selecting  
an appropriate sized end user container, printing and applying a label to said container, inserting  
the labeled container into a carrier, and routing the carrier among the first or second subset of  
workstations.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said routing includes routing the carrier  
from a dispensing workstation, to an imaging workstation, and to a capping workstation.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising tracking ~~multiple~~ a portion of the prescriptions that belong to one order and grouping all the prescriptions that belong to one order for shipping.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising routing the carrier to a packing workstation where a patient specific document is printed and inserted into a labeled bag along with the patient's prescription.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a prescription filling line, comprising:

evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether ~~one or more~~ a plurality of prescriptions within each order ~~is~~ are fillable in ~~an~~ a fully automated manner or a non-automated manner~~not~~;

selecting an appropriate sized end user container;  
printing and applying a label to said container;  
inserting the labeled container into a carrier;  
routing the carrier to a prescription filling station;  
routing the carrier to an imaging workstation; and  
determining, via a control computer, a set of equipment for each prescription based on said evaluating,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the plurality of prescriptions is fillable in ~~an~~ the fully automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a first subset of said equipment, the first subset comprises a first set of devices ~~automated equipment~~ to fill the at least one prescription entirely automatically, wherein selecting said first subset comprises ~~excludes~~ excluding a pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order by a pharmacist and,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that the at least one prescription is not fillable in ~~at~~ the fully ~~non~~-automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second

subset of said equipment, the second subset comprises ~~non-automated equipment~~a second set of devices to semi-automatically or manually fill the at least one prescription, said second subset includes the pharmacist review workstation,

wherein when in an instance in which said order has been filled by the ~~automated equipment~~first set of devices, routing each carrier for said order to a packing workstation without a review by ~~at~~the pharmacist, and

wherein when in an instance in which said order has at least one prescription filled by the ~~non-automated equipment~~second set of devices, routing each carrier for said order to the pharmacist workstation before routing each carrier to the packing workstation.

10. (Withdrawn) A system for filing a prescription, said system comprising:

a control computer in communication with a plurality of workstations comprising a first prescription filling station comprising automated equipment and a second prescription filling station comprising non-automated equipment, said control computer configured to:

evaluate a queue of orders to determine whether each prescription within respective orders is fillable by said automated equipment; and

control routing of the prescription, based on said evaluating, either to one set of workstations that includes the first prescription filling station comprising automated equipment but is independent of a pharmacist review workstation or to a different set of workstations that includes the second prescription filling station comprising non-automated equipment and that further includes a pharmacist review workstation.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 further comprising one or more carriers corresponding with a respective one or more prescriptions, said carriers configured to transport a respective one or more containers throughout the system.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of workstations further comprise an imaging workstation comprising an imaging means configured to take and store an image of the contents of respective carriers.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 wherein the imaging workstation further comprises a near infrared imaging means.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an insert configured to enable the carrier to accommodate a container of varying diameter.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an identifier configured to store information associated with the corresponding prescription.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 15 wherein the identifier comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of workstations further comprise some combination of a dispensing workstation, a capping workstation and a packing workstation.